India have reported that they have advanced a sum of Rs. 3.50 crores to Indian Express Newspapers (Bombay) Pvt. Ltd, after due scrutiny and without violating banking norms.

Iron ore deposits of Tiruvanamalai in Tamil Nadu

962. SHRI PASUMPON THA. KIRUTTINAN:

SHRI V. GOPALSAMY:

Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) what is the estimate of iron ore deposits in Tiruvanamalai in Tamil Nadu;

(b) what is the iron content in these deposits;

(c) what is the approximate sponge iron demand in Tamil Nadu at present;

(d) what would be the estimated sponge iron demand at the end of the Eighth Plan Period; and

(e) whether there is any proposal to set up a sponge iron plant in Tamil Nadu to use iron ore of Tiruvanamalai and Neyveli lignite and to avoid import of iron scrap to manufacture sponge iron, if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINES WITH ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI DINESH GOSWAMI) (a) A total reserve of 62 million tonnes of unclassified oxidised and unoxidised magnetite ore has been estimated in Kavuthimalai-Vediappanmalai - Vellimalai situated 8 flm. north-east of Tiruvanamalai Town in Tamil Nadu.

(b) The iron content of these deposits is 39 per cent on an average.

(c) Sponge iron is a partial substitute of melting scrap used by secondary sector. Total requirement of scrap by the units in Tamil Nadu as registered with MSTC was 2.56 lakh tonnes for 1989-90. On the basis of 30 per cent substitution of scrap by sponge iron the demand for sponge iron can be assessed at 75,000 tonnes in this state.

(d) Estimated demand of sponge Iron at the end of VIII Plan, for the country is around 5 million tonnes.

(e) M/s. Tamil Nadu Sponge Iron, Ltd., have proposed to set up a sponge iron plant based on Neyveli Lignite with the capacity of 30,000 tpa at Salem. The engineering and consultancy for this plant is being proved by Sponge Iron Ltd., a Government of India Undertaking.

Aid India consortium assistance to India

963. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: (Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) what is the aggregate assistance likely to be received by Government from the Aid India Consortium this year;

(b) by what percentage the aid is likely to fall short of the level promised in 1989;

(c) what is its likely impact on the balance of payment problem and debt servicing besides the country's developmental programme; and

(d) in what manner Government propose to meet the resource constraints?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI ANIL SHASTRI): (a) and (b) The indications of probable aid levels pointed to commitments level of U.S. $ 6.0--6.5 billion for 1990-91. This did not include pledges of the one donor country, which was to be announced later. In 1989-90, an indicative commitment level of U.S. $ 6.7 billion was announced. On comparable basis, the aid indications this year are of the same level as last year.

(c) and (d) Government do not regard foreign borrowings as a substitute for resource mobilisation through domestic efforts and have taken a number of steps to bring about improvement in revenue receipts and eliminate inessential and low priority expenditure, to boost exports and to increase invisible earnings, to ensure efficient import substitution and to reduce dependency on borrowed funds for financing expenditure.